

From: Mulvaney, Mick (CFPB)
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To: _DL_CFPB_AllHands
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Cc:
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Subject: Message to Staff
Date: Thu Apr 12 2018 14:42:38 EDT
Attachments:

All:

As you may be aware, an article was published this week purporting to contain confidential information about a Bureau enforcement matter. This is the most recent of similar disclosures in the last few months. I am extraordinarily concerned that some of these leaks might have come from Bureau employees.

I recognize that there may well be some (a few? a lot?) of people who work here who aren't happy that I'm working here. That's fine. I also recognize that those folks might be interested in undermining my leadership here, or in quite simply just trying to make me look bad. Again, that doesn't worry me too much. I gave up worrying about that when I first ran for Congress almost a decade ago.

But I just want everyone to recognize that the Bureau itself is harmed by these sorts of leaks. Our credibility and operational integrity is the victim here, not me. Moreover, beyond damage to the Bureau, these leaks can also move markets; endanger enforcement actions and possible settlement agreements; unfairly damage the reputations of companies or entities; and/or place the Bureau in legal jeopardy.

Quite simply: leaks like this make all of us look bad.

As I have done for previous disclosures of confidential information, I have referred these matters to the Inspector General (IG) for investigation. I am encouraged by the progress the IG has made on previous leaks and am confident that they will be able to get to the bottom of these as well. I will support appropriate disciplinary and other actions being taken against any Bureau employees who are found to have improperly leaked confidential information.

I hope we can all agree that the improper leaking of confidential information is wholly unacceptable under the Bureau's rules and incompatible with our role as a federal investigative and enforcement

entity. The Bureau does not play games, it enforces the law and protects consumers. Leaks from Bureau employees demean the Bureau's external reputation and undermine the hard work of our colleagues.

And quite simply, they need to stop.

Let me be clear, I am not dissuading anyone from making a lawful protected disclosure pertaining to a violation of the law, rule or regulation waste, fraud, or abuse; or a danger to public health or safety. This is not about stifling whistleblowers. This is about preventing the sharing of confidential information outside of the Bureau – for reasons unrelated to making a protected disclosure.

If you have concerns or questions regarding any action underway, my senior staff and I have an open door and conversations are welcome anytime.

Thanks,

Mick M.

Acting Director

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